

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



Information Letter



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Senate Passes Labeling Bill With Amendment

The Senate on June 6 passed the informative labeling bill (S.1133) with an amendment proposed by Senator Copeland, which does not modify the fundamental principle of the bill but sets up a method of procedure for the Department of Agriculture in changing or fixing definitions and standards under the bill.

Before the bill can go to the President the amendment must be accepted by the House or the bill be sent to conference for a report on which the two Houses may agree.

The language added to the bill by the Copeland amendment follows:

"When it is proposed to change and fix a standard the Secretary of Agriculture shall direct the food standards committee, or such other standards agency as he may establish in the food and drug administration of the department, to determine upon and publish from time to time tentative definitions and standards for food. No such tentative definition or standard for any food shall be determined upon or published except after reasonable public notice and full opportunity for public hearing of all interested parties upon a proposed tentative definition or standard for the food, to be announced by the standards agency as a part of such public notice. Within thirty days after the publication of any such tentative definition or standard determined upon by the standards agency, exceptions thereto may be

filed with the Secretary by any party of record to the proceedings before the standards agency with respect to the tentative definition or standard. The Secretary shall, if exceptions are so filed, and may upon his own motion within such period, whether or not exceptions are so filed, review such tentative definition or standard. If such review is had, the Secretary may, after reasonable notice to all parties of record to the proceedings before the standards agency with respect to the tentative definition or standard and after full opportunity to all such parties for public hearing before him, determine upon and establish a definition and/or standard for the food. If no such review is had, the Secretary shall establish the tentative definition and/or standard as the definition and/or standard for the food. A definition or standard established by the Secretary under this section shall take effect at such time as the Secretary shall prescribe, but in no case earlier than ninety days from the date of the promulgation thereof. The testimony and argument at any hearing under this section shall be stenographically reported and a transcript thereof promptly filed in the department as a public record. Modifications of any definition or standard established under this section shall likewise be subject to the foregoing procedure."

Frost Damage to Pea Crop

Further damage to the pea crop in Wisconsin was caused by the frost in that territory on May 29. A survey on which to base a quantitative estimate of the damage from this frost and the earlier freeze has been conducted by crop reporting agencies in Wisconsin, the results of which will be announced the first of next week. The report, as soon as available, will be sent to canners by the Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A report received June 6 concerning the situation in Illinois states that the southern limit of frost damage to Alaskas in that state is DeKalb and Rochelle. Between those points and the Wisconsin line, about 25 per cent of the pea acreage is Alaskas, which are estimated to have been damaged about 15 per cent. Drought is said to be reducing the prospects for Alaskas more than the frost damage. Sweets are stated to be in good condition.

On June 3, the Department of Agriculture issued the following statement from its representative concerning the freeze on May 16-17:

"After two days in the field checking the canning pea situ-

ation, I find that the situation is much more serious than anyone anticipated, but most canners and other investigators are in the same difficulty in that they are unable to interpret the results of the freeze. The damage is the result of a dry, hard freeze over practically the entire states and apparently over northern Illinois as well as Minnesota. It should be borne in mind that this was not what is commonly called a frost but a general dry freeze on a windy night.

"The damage to the plants is of two types; (1) The most obvious freezing of leaves and stems which is very apparent on some fields and in some localities; (2) the less obvious but much more serious freezing of the node at the end of the growing plant from which the blossoms normally develop. With the freezing of this node experts predict that various fields of the early sown Alaskas will neither bloom nor bear pods. Often such fields have beautiful vegetative growth, but on examination the blossoms show sterility in various degrees from 1 in 10 to 10 in 10. Many canners are not yet aware of this situation.

"Nobody seems to have had this experience before, so far as I can determine, and no one knows just what to expect from the frozen fields. It is relatively easy to judge the situation where the complete plant is damaged to the effect that plant and leaves are yellow, but in the larger and more important areas where only the flowering tips at the topmost node of the plant are injured and the vegetative growth is apparently unhurt the situation seems especially difficult at the present moment.

"It appears at present that approximately 30 per cent of the Alaskas in the state were far enough along to be affected by the freezing on the morning of May 17. To predict the yield per acre on this portion of the crop would be absolutely guesswork at this time. About one-half of the acreage is in Alaskas this year. In the event that 30 per cent of this Alaska acreage should be a total loss, the reduction from the freeze would, therefore, be something like 15 per cent of the total acreage. Those Alaskas which were not far enough along to be seriously affected by the freeze may be set back and their vitality reduced. This is the prospect that introduces so much uncertainty in the present attempt to estimate the damage.

"While the sweets (which make up about one-half of the acreage of the state) were not largely damaged, many being still under ground or not yet planted, some fields were above ground and a small per cent of damage is likely to result. In

any event this will be quite small and not an important factor in the situation.

"The freezing was hard and sufficiently general to have affected most crops that were far enough along at that time. Such crops as fruit trees, strawberries, cabbage plants and others will undoubtedly show losses. The tops of the alfalfa are brown and frozen, and even grains show injured tips in the same way."

Oleo Bill Sent to Conference

The bill (H. R. 6) to amend the definition of oleomargarine, which was passed by the Senate on May 26 after having passed the House on February 26, was on June 3 sent to conference.

Navy Asks Bids on Mincemeat and Figs

The Navy Department is asking for bids on 18,000 pounds of canned mincemeat, for delivery at Hampton Roads, Va. Bids are also being requested on a quantity of canned figs, 39,000 pounds for delivery at Brooklyn, N. Y., 26,000 pounds for delivery at Hampton Roads, and 82,000 pounds for delivery at Mare Island, Calif. The date of opening the bids on the canned mincemeat is August 5, and for the canned figs, July 1, 1930. Copies of schedules on which to submit bids may be secured from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts, Navy Department, Washington, D. C.

Supreme Court Hands Down Opinion on Hoch-Smith Resolution

In an opinion by Mr. Justice Van Devanter handed down June 2, the U. S. Supreme Court held that the interpretation and application of the Hoch-Smith resolution by the Interstate Commerce Commission in connection with the California deciduous fruit rate case was erroneous, the court rejecting the Commission's conclusion that the resolution made a change in the basic law of determining the reasonableness of the freight rate structure.

The Hoch-Smith resolution provided that conditions prevailing in the several industries of the country should be considered by the Interstate Commerce Commission in fixing the freight rates on products of these industries. The resolution was given application in an order issued by the Commission reducing the rates to be charged for the transportation of deciduous fruits from California to the East and suit was brought

by the carriers attacking the validity of the order, which was issued by the Commission on the ground that the resolution gave agricultural products a favored position and made a change in the basic law.

In his opinion, Mr. Justice Van Devanter stated:

"The question presented is whether the resolution changes the substantive provisions of existing law relating to transportation rates and particularly whether rates which would be lawful under those laws are made unlawful by it."

The court's opinion then analyzes the three paragraphs of the Hoch-Smith resolution, stating that the policy set out in the first paragraph of the resolution is not new. The court reaches the same conclusion with respect to the second paragraph of the resolution, and then states that the third paragraph was construed by the Commission as making a change in the basic law and as placing agricultural products in the "most favored class." As regards this point the court states:

"The paragraph does not purport to make any change in the existing law, but on the contrary requires that that law be given effect. Nor does it purport to make unlawful any rate which, under the existing law, is a lawful rate, but on the contrary leaves the validity of the rate to be tested by that law."

The language of the third paragraph of the Hoch-Smith resolution, in the court's opinion, is "more in the nature of a hopeful characterization of an object deemed desirable if, and insofar as, it may be attainable, rather than of a rule intended to control rate making."

The court concludes that if the language of the Hoch-Smith resolution means more than that the depressed condition of an industry is to be given such consideration as may be reasonable, considering the nature and cost of the transportation services and the need for maintaining an adequate transportation system, and if it is intended to require that rates be reduced to some uncertain level below that standard, it gives rise to a serious question respecting its constitutional validity.

Farm Board to Assist in Organizing Apple Growers

The Federal Farm Board has announced that, as a result of meetings with apple growers on January 14 and May 14 and 15, the Board is making detailed preparation for the organization of an apple project in the fruit and vegetable section of the Division of Cooperative Marketing.

In carrying out the apple project the Board will assist growers in the development of local and regional cooperative marketing associations looking toward the "handling of the commodity on a national basis." Federal and state agricultural agencies have been invited to cooperate in this undertaking. Immediate activities in connection with the apple project are as follows:

1. The Federal Farm Board will encourage and assist in the organization and development of local and regional associations in the apple-growing districts of the Cumberland-Potomac-Shenandoah area, Western New York area, the New England states, the Mid-Western states and the Mountain states. The Board will aid in strengthening existing cooperatives and will help in the organization of new ones wherever local growers sentiment and conditions are favorable to cooperative developments and where the particular project offers reasonable promise of success.
2. Local cooperatives will be encouraged to unify their marketing activities and establish regional sales agencies with the hope that eventually there will be sufficient cooperative organization of apple growers to warrant the development of a national sales program.

Business Conditions

According to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce for the week ended May 31, business, as measured by the volume of checks presented for payment, was lower than the preceding week and below the level of June 1, 1929. Contracts awarded for new building for the latest reported week were fewer than for the preceding week and the corresponding period of 1929.

Wholesale prices showed slight change from a week ago, and were lower than the last week in May, 1929.

Bank loans and discounts, showing no change from last week, were more than 4 per cent greater than the week ended June 1, 1929. Prices for stocks, showing an upward trend, were higher than the preceding week but lower than the corresponding week a year ago.

Interest rates remain unchanged from the preceding week and were materially lower than last year. Business failures

during the week ended May 31 were fewer than the previous week but greater than a year ago.

Movement of commodities by rail, as shown by statistics for the latest reported week, was a little more than for the preceding week, and less than the same week a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L.C.L.	Other
Week ended May 24	931,473	364,372	246,370	320,731
Preceding week	930,004	367,572	248,135	314,297
Corresponding week, 1929	1,062,688	419,336	262,237	380,115
Corresponding week, 1928	1,021,403	398,383	239,764	383,256

Florida Production of Canned Grapefruit Juice

The following figures on canned grapefruit and grapefruit juice production were secured from members of the trade in Florida by the Jacksonville office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, at the request of the Florida Canners Association. They are not official figures but are believed to be fairly accurate.

Sizes of cases and containers	Actual number of cases Grapefruit hearts	Grapefruit juice
12 15-ounce	3,370
24 15-ounce	1,900
48 8-ounce	236,943	16,167
48 14-ounce	1,080
72 8-ounce	39,240	1,590
48 No. 1	32,811	89,375
24 No. 2	938,685	47,086
12 No. 3	61,704	9,282
6 No. 10	2,775	819
Total	1,327,508	163,604
Equivalent standard cases of 24 No. 2	1,316,738	173,934

Loans for Pacific Coast Dairy Cooperatives Approved

The Federal Farm Board has announced tentative approval of application for loans from the United Dairymen's Association of Seattle and the Challenge Cream and Butter Association of Los Angeles. The former asked for \$900,000 and the latter for \$450,000. The Lower Columbia Cooperative Dairy Association of Astoria was granted a loan in January. These three organizations are said to include in their present membership practically all of the dairy cooperatives in states west of the Rockies.

Intended Acreage of Pimientos and Chili
Peppers in California

The intended acreage of pimientos for canning in California in 1930 is 2,374 as compared with 2,377 acres intended to

be planted in 1929 and 2,117 acres actually harvested in 1929. This is an increase of about 12 per cent.

An increase of about 63 per cent is indicated in the California acreage devoted to chili peppers for canning in 1930, the intended acreage being 770 acres as compared with 410 acres intended to be planted in 1929 and 470 acres actually harvested in 1929. As this crop is contracted by the canners on a tonnage basis, acreage figures are not the best for comparative data. Last year an acreage of 470 yielded an average of 4.48 tons to the acre.

Weather Conditions

Over the eastern half of the United States the weather was persistently cool through nearly all of the last half of May, according to the Weather Bureau's report on June 4, with sub-normal temperatures continuing until about June 1 when there was a reaction to warmer weather. This general and prolonged coolness, together with a widespread deficiency in rainfall, has retarded the growth of practically all crops, and especially those of the warm-weather variety. Each of the last three weeks has experienced more or less frost in northern states, resulting in some damage to tender vegetation and locally to fruit. Frost during the past week was heavy in Appalachian Mountain sections, and generally in the upper Lake region, with cherries and strawberries suffering considerably in the latter.

Marketing Bill Goes to President

With approval by the Senate of the conference committee report, the bill (S. 108) to suppress unfair and fraudulent practices in the marketing of perishable agricultural commodities goes to the President for his signature. The bill provides for a system of licensing commission merchants, dealers and brokers, defines what constitutes unfair conduct, and makes general provision for the enforcement of the act.

Truck Crop Markets

Produce markets showed no uniform trend during the week ended May 31, according to the U. S. Market News Service. Movement of tomatoes was beginning actively in Mississippi and eastern Texas, with 150 cars from the former state and 870 from Texas, including many from the Rio Grande Valley. A wide range of quality and condition was noticed in many receipts from southern states and Mexico.

The bulk of the cabbage supply was coming from Virginia and Tennessee. Shipments of cantaloupes from Imperial Valley of California still averaged 300 cars daily. Forwardings of strawberries were rapidly decreasing.

The watermelon season is much later than last year, but movement was becoming fairly heavy in Florida and southern California.

Apple shipments were down to about 50 cars daily. Washington originated 200 carloads last week and New York and Virginia together about 100 cars. Peach movement increased to about 10 cars for the week including several each from Georgia and California and 1 car from North Carolina. Output of plums and prunes increased greatly in California to 105 cars. California cherry shipments went up to 240 cars, while the first car of the season was reported from Washington. Michigan and Wisconsin cherries and berries were damaged by recent frosts. Oranges, almost exclusively from California, decreased to 960 cars, compared with twice that number during the same period last year.

Shipments of string beans increased to 645 cars, chiefly from North and South Carolina and Louisiana. The season for Virginia beans also opened. Cucumber movement from Alabama jumped to 340 cars, while South Carolina increased to 85 cars.

Total output of 31 fruits and vegetables for the week decreased about 7 per cent to 17,255 cars, and was 2,300 cars lighter than a year ago.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	May 25-31 1930	May 18-24 1930	May 26 June 1 1929	Total this season to May 31	Total last season to June 1	Total last season
Apples, total	811	457	269	102,001	127,045	127,530
Eastern states	97	128	94	31,918	62,443	62,708
Western states	214	329	175	30,953	64,602	64,822
Asparagus	42	43	34	2,588	1,935	2,110
Cabbage	764	953	636	13,424	19,097	44,152
Carrots	288	373	419	8,324	7,679	12,076
Cherries	288	127	163	542	295	2,295
Cucumbers	647	509	593	2,020	3,963	7,456
Green peas	432	403	594	6,092	9,639	17,237
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	696	760	603	16,989	17,964	22,420
Imports	1	8	5	338	133	158
Peppers:						
Domestic	128	87	92	1,216	1,711	3,288
Imports	3	6	6	244	290	290
Plums and prunes	103	23	10	120	10	6,045
Spinach	2	10	22	9,312	9,881	10,333
Strawberries	963	1,439	2,326	11,079	17,877	20,109
String beans	646	486	329	6,264	5,920	8,637
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	1,484	1,314	1,410	9,877	10,790	31,946
Imports	1	16	10	5,863	4,629	4,620

Farm Prices Decline

The general level of farm prices on May 15 was 3 points lower than on April 15, and at 124 per cent of the pre-war level, the index of prices paid to producers was 12 points lower than on May 15 a year ago, according to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Lower prices for cotton, grains, meat animals, and dairy and poultry products accounted for the decline from April 15 to May 15. Potatoes, apples and cottonseed were the only commodities which rose in value per unit during the month. At the end of May, according to a statement by the Department of Agriculture on June 3, the average price of farm products was higher than that of the preceding week and near the highest point reached in May.

Bulletin Issued on Cherries

In its series of bulletins on California crops and prices, the California College of Agriculture has issued a 40-page pamphlet on cherries, which is listed as Bulletin No. 488.

One section of the bulletin is devoted to canned cherries, and presents a survey of the important cherry-producing states, the trend of the canned cherry pack, prices paid to growers, exports, etc.

Canadian Imports of Canned Vegetables Affected By Higher Duties

According to telegraphic information received by the Department of Commerce from the American Commercial Attache at Ottawa, imports of canned vegetables from the United States, especially asparagus, have been affected by higher duties. Canadian canners opening prices for asparagus remained the same as a year ago.

Australian Export Subsidy Established for Canned Apricots

The Australian export subsidy for canned apricots has been established at 6 pence (approximately 12 cents) per dozen tins for this season, according to information radioed to the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Notes on New Publications

The relation of physical and chemical properties to the quality of spinach for canning is discussed in bulletin No. 320

recently issued by the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station at College Park.

The Kentucky College of Agriculture at Lexington has issued a twelve-page illustrated bulletin giving details on tomato culture designed especially for members of the junior 4-H clubs.

Tree hoppers and their control in orchards of the Pacific Northwest are discussed in Circular No. 106 recently issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The bulletin, which contains a number of illustrations, gives a general description of hoppers, a brief summary of their life history, describes natural enemies, and discusses preventative and control measures.

Bulletin Issued on Growing of Tomatoes for Canning

The Agricultural Experiment Station at Lafayette has issued a 28-page bulletin on growing tomatoes for the canning factory. The bulletin discusses such subjects as the essential plant growing factors, growing plants under glass, construction of hot beds, plant growing in the open, soil and soil fertility, setting and culture of plants, tomato diseases, and insects attacking tomatoes.

Utilization of Shrimp Waste

Methods of profitable recovery of shrimp waste are outlined in the study, "Utilization of Shrimp Waste," recently completed by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries.

Among the methods pointed out by the bureau experts are: Brincock method, waste brine-cook method, nonacid-water-cook method, acid water-cook method, noncook acidulation method, and the cook and acidulation method.

Only about 25 per cent of the waste of the shrimp industry is now being recovered, it is stated. For the year 1928 about 115,000,000 pounds of shrimp were taken from United States waters from North Carolina to Texas, compared with about 99,000,000 pounds in 1827.

Stations That Will Broadcast Canny Cook Programs

The schedule of stations from which "The Hour of the Canny Cook" will be broadcast after June 10 in the Eastern and Central states and after June 24 in the Pacific Coast and Mountain states has now been completed. The stations are practically the same as now used for the four-day-a-week programs. After

these dates, "The Hour of the Canny Cook" will be given two days a week—Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The programs will be similar in type to those previously given and will feature authorities in the field of science, experts in home economics, and others intimately associated with the production, serving and use of canned foods.

Following is a list of stations that will carry the programs on Tuesdays and Thursdays after June 10 in the East and after June 24 in the Far West:

10:45-11:00 A. M. Eastern Standard (11:45-12:00 A. M. Daylight Saving) Time.

9:45-10:00 A. M. Central Standard (10:45-11:00 A. M. Daylight Saving) Time.

WEAF	New York	WEBC	Duluth-Superior
WEEI	Boston	WRVA	Richmond
WJAR	Providence	WPTF	Raleigh
WTAG	Worcester	WBT	Charlotte
WCSH	Portland	WJAX	Jacksonville
WRC	Washington	WHAS	Louisville
WGY	Schenectady	WMC	Memphis
WGR	Buffalo	WSB	Atlanta
WCAE	Pittsburgh	WJDX	Jackson
WWJ	Detroit	WSMB	New Orleans
WSAI	Cincinnati	WKY	Oklahoma City
WIBO	Chicago	KTHS	Hot Springs
KSD	St. Louis	KPRC	Houston
WDAF	Kansas City	WOAI	San Antonio
KSTP	St. Paul, Minn.	CKGW	Toronto
WAPI	Birmingham	WOW	Omaha
WTMJ	Milwaukee	WLIT	Philadelphia
WOC	Davenport	WSM	Nashville
WTIC	Hartford	WIOD	Miami

KVOO Tulsa.....Tuesdays only

WTAM Cleveland.....Thursdays only

11:45-12:00 Pacific Coast Time and 12:45-1:00 Mountain Time

KOA	Denver	KGO	San Francisco	KOMO	Seattle
KSL	Salt Lake	KGW	Portland	KNX	Los Angeles
		KHQ	Spokane		